Resolution 21/8: Africa fund/financing mechanism on slum prevention and upgrading

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 20/2 on the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was requested to inform the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the progress made by the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and to report on the implications which the outcomes of the Conference may have for the programme of work and the budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recalling also the Durban Declaration on the Establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development¹ and the adoption by that body of the Enhanced Framework for the Implementation of Sustainable Housing and Urban Development in Africa² and, at its Special Ministerial Conference, of the Framework Memorandum and a Programme of Action for the Mobilization of Governments and Institutions on Slum Prevention and Upgrading,³ which together set forth the institutional agreements to fulfil Goal 7, Target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals,⁴

Acknowledging that many countries in Africa lack adequate financing mechanisms and institutional abilities for slum prevention and upgrading,

Taking note of the need to scale up the construction of new housing, increase land availability and assure tenure rights,

Acknowledging the good cooperative spirit and political will thus far demonstrated by the first Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and its executive secretariat in conducting the business of the conference during its first two years of existence in the absence of dedicated resources,

Considering that an earmarked fund/financing mechanism could serve as a next step in catalysing African countries to increase the share of national budgets allocated for housing and urban development,

Taking note of the emergence of regional organizations like the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in other parts of the world as instruments supporting the effective implementation of Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, and the broader urban development agenda of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Acknowledging the momentum generated by the emergence, over the past few years, of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development as a manifestation of political will to support the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the idea spearheaded by the African Union of an African renaissance,

¹ Reproduced in document HSP/GC/20/INF/8, annex I.
² Ibid., annex II.
³ Available at www.housing.gov.za/amchud/Content/Framework%20and%20poa%20for%20mobilisation.doc. See also document HSP/GC/21/2, paragraph 17, on progress in respect of Governing Council resolution 20/2.
⁴ General Assembly resolution 60/1, paragraph 17: “...the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals ...” See also General Assembly resolution 55/2.
Convinced that that political will must translate into resource commitments by African Governments themselves if the productivity of livelihood–making activities by Africa’s urban poor is to be enhanced,

1. Takes note of the proposal by the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development to establish an earmarked Africa fund/financing mechanism for participatory slum prevention and upgrading, to be administered by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with the executive secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, which will focus primarily on building communities, would be supported by the international community and would be targeted on facilitating and spearheading new and existing pilot projects, including Slum Upgrading Facility pilot projects, in order to develop the ability of members of the Conference to scale up such projects, in line with the intention of the Conference to prevent further slum development, to upgrade those that are in extremely dangerous condition and to support the critical elements identified by the Conference: research; identification of best practices; establishment of monitoring systems on meeting slum targets; and dissemination of lessons learned into the development of more effective urban development policies and strategies;

2. Invites the executive secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, in consultation with the members of the Conference, to prepare a comparative feasibility study on the establishment of an African Fund for Slum Prevention and Upgrading for consideration by the Conference in 2008;

3. Requests the Executive Director, in keeping with Governing Council resolution 20/2, to provide technical support to the executive secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in the preparation of the aforementioned feasibility study and to ensure adequate coordination and complementarity between the proposed African Fund and other financial instruments, including those administered by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

4. Encourages the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to assess the requisite level of domestic resources and institutional abilities to provide the seed capital and programmatic support which would catalyse and mobilize support from the international community;

5. Calls on African Governments, the international community, States members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the donor community to give their full support to the feasibility study on the establishment of a fund/financing mechanism for scaling up delivery on slum prevention and upgrading, and to its eventual follow–up;

6. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to submit a similar concept to the ministerial conferences on housing and urban development of the Asia-Pacific and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions;

7. Also requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to report on the implementation of the present resolution at the Governing Council at its twenty-second session and also on the implications which it may have for the programme of work and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

7th plenary meeting
20 April 2007